

Spark Gap

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White River F.D. Strawberry Festival

We had 10 club members who participated Saturday during the daylong event. We also had a record number of visitors to our tent city to inquire about Amateur Radio.

During the day we made a number of contacts on 20 meters using the new ICOM 857 radio and Buddy Pole antenna that was recently purchased with grant money from Homeland Security. Many other stations were contacted on 40 meters and six meters using Steve's TenTec radio.

This is the 19th annual White River Fire Department Strawberry Festival. Funds raised go toward training and purchase of equipment not covered by community tax dollars. The Mid-State ARC has been on hand for nearly two decades supporting the local fire department.

.....Jack W8ISH



2011 Strawberry festival
(photo by W8ISH)

NIMS BRIEFING AT THE JUNE M.A.R.C. MEETING

There will be a short presentation about the NIMS requirements and the online study courses that are required to have if you work in any capacity with the county EMA or any emergency service. The courses are interesting and you will learn about how the command structure operates during an emergency. As an Amateur Radio operator it is good to know how the system works especially if you are volunteering your services with the local Emergency Management Office in your county.

From the President:

After making sure that V.P. Dave Daily, KB9LOT would be at the helm for the May meeting, I departed for Dayton Hamvention 2011. After all, this only happens once per year, and it's *Dayton*. I had a secondary mission that of supporting fellow club member Jack Parker, W8ISH, who was a presenter in one of the prestigious Hamvention forums.

Being a veteran of many Dayton pilgrimages, dating back to the 1960's and a regular for the last several years, it has become somewhat routine. Time (age), has a way of tempering the enthusiasm of multiple trips through the vast commercial area, indoor vendors, and several trips through the outdoor flea market that has become part of my annual ritual. The place is so huge that it is hard find just the right item on the first, second, or even third pass. Once you find what you are looking for, you must find the lowest price or the mission would be bittersweet. You must plot the item in your memory, notebook, or mark a GPS coordinate to find your way back. This year I had no "must have" items on my list, but you never know what you need until you see it. After nearly three hours I had only made one complete lap of the indoor vendors, and only a half lap in the outdoor flea market. It was getting pretty warm so I weighed the cost benefit of finding something I don't need, versus heat stroke or dehydration. It was time for me to go indoors to take a break and sit in on some of the forums.

First up was the Newsline Town Hall Meeting, chaired by Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. It was interesting to see Bill, Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, and several other correspondents that we hear regularly on "Amateur Radio Newsline" live in person. The topic of the meeting was "How to make a ham radio video in the 21st century". The focus was how to interest young people in the hobby and to promote local radio clubs. Topics covered were how to tell a story, and what video equipment to use for the best impact and effect, and how to create an outline, script, shoot, and edit the material. Jack Parker told about his years of experience in shooting news stories and videos, how to shoot the surroundings to highlight the subject, showing both the action and reaction of the topic event. He also showed examples of how to frame and pan the subject for the best visual effect.

I still had some time, so I went next door to the DX forum. There I found speakers discussing their experiences on recent DXpeditions to the Caribbean islands of Saba and St. Maarten to activate the new entities last October. It is always interesting and entertaining to hear the trials and tribulations of assembling an expedition and hearing all the problems with logistics, travel, weather, and local hurdles that must be overcome. On our end of these operations we only hear the pile ups and try to squeeze in a contact with hundreds of other stations calling. It is quite an eye opener to hear what happens on the other end. It isn't always as glamorous as we imagine.

Right now, sitting out next year seems like a good idea, but by next May I'll probably be ready to tackle it again.

--Steve, K9DY

FEMA Administrator Calls Amateur Radio “The Last Line of Defense”

In an **FCC forum** on earthquake communications preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) Administrator Craig Fugate described the Amateur Radio operator as “the ultimate backup, the originators of what we call social media.” The forum-- held May 3 at FCC Headquarters in Washington, DC -- brought together officials from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**), the United States Geological Survey (**USGS**), FEMA, the FCC and the private sector. Fugate and FCC Bureau of Public Safety and Homeland Security Chief Jamie Barnett gave the opening remarks.

Later in the forum, Fugate spoke more on Amateur Radio. “During the initial communications out of Haiti, volunteers using assigned frequencies that they are allocated, their own equipment, their own money, nobody pays them, were the first ones oftentimes getting word out in the critical first hours and first days as the rest of the systems came back up,” he told the forum. “I think that there is a tendency because we have done so much to build infrastructure and resiliency in all our other systems, we have tended to dismiss that role ‘When Everything Else Fails.’ Amateur Radio oftentimes is our last line of defense.”

Fugate said that he thinks “we get so sophisticated and we have gotten so used to the reliability and resilience in our wireless and wired and our broadcast industry and all of our public safety communications that we can never fathom that they’ll fail. They do. They have. They will. I think a strong Amateur Radio community [needs to be] plugged into these plans. Yes, most of the time they’re going to be bored, because a lot of the time, there’s not a lot they’re going to be doing that other people aren’t doing with Twitter and Facebook and everything else. But when you need Amateur Radio, you really need them.”

..... ARRL letter June 2011

ARRL FIELD DAY 2011



Saturday June 25th

This year M.A.R.C. will be conducting ARRL Field Day at the Johnson County EOC. This will give ARES/RACES members as well as other operators to test the capabilities of the new array of antennas recently installed and the recently acquired radios. The EOC Radio Communication Center will be where the activity will be taking place. There will also be some other activities taking place at the EOC such as CERT Training. All are welcome to attend and take part in the fun starting Saturday afternoon June 25th.

..... NEW PRODUCT

THE RIGGER



I recently purchased “The Rigger” after seeing it advertised online in the QRZ classified ads. There have been similar types of devices on the market for many years but this one looked different to me. From the picture in the ad it looked very sturdy since the ones I have seen before have been constructed of plexi-glass or some other lighter weight material.

Needless to say I purchased one and it arrived at my residence in a couple of days after placing my order. The package seemed heavy when I picked it up. Unpacking it I found that it was well protected and suffered no damage on its journey from Georgia to Indiana.

I could not get over how well it was constructed and the weight it has in the base of the unit. I found that my HT was very secure and it had a place to hold a lapel mike if needed. The picture above has my YEASU FT-60 mounted on The Rigger. The base also makes a good place to have a small power supply or as pictures my dual band Mirage amp. This is great to take along with you when traveling and set up your station in the hotel room or picnic table when camping.

The Rigger was in production about 10 years ago and was used by many police departments and EOC workers when deployed to a location and radio communication was critical. The Rigger held their HT in place so it would not end up on the floor. There is nothing to assemble and it has a lifetime guarantee. The company is owned and run by HAMS.

The cost of the Rigger is \$ 24.95 and will be shipped immediately to your home or business.

For more information go to the web site: <http://www.therigger.net/The-Rigger-The-Rigger-Model-3.htm>

..... Bob N9SIU

SOME ADVISE TO NEW HAMS

So you've recently passed the test and you now have your brand new Amateur Radio license in hand. Congratulations on a job very well done, and I sincerely welcome you to the fraternity. I hope you learn more about radio and electronics over the next few years than you ever knew before. Now that you have a VHF or UHF rig at your disposal, let's briefly discuss some operating habits.

1. In amateur radio, we have names. Not handles, not personals, just names. I know, it's more fun sometimes to say things like handle and personal, but let's try to stick to names. Sometimes a new guy or gal will forget and that's OK, just try to remember when in the amateur bands, we use our names, and our FCC issued call signs.
2. There is no word "destinated". "Roger that", "10-4" and "Motion Lotion" are not amateur radio terms either. Although I have been guilty of using all four of those at one time or another.
3. Amateur Radio operators learn a standard set of phonetics for the English alphabet. You needed to know them for your test, so why not use them on the air like you're supposed to. Do you break the law by saying Big Violet Nighties instead of Bravo Victor November? I don't think so but it's not what other radio amateurs are expecting. Sometimes cute phonetics can cost you a nice DX contact because they can't understand what you're saying.
4. When you are keying your mobile to identify, it is a great idea to make sure the mic is keyed before you say your call sign. A lot of new radio amateurs have never used an old rig that has a half second delay between keying the mic and the relay in the rig opening the mic. So if you key the mic and just wait a half second before announcing KB9BVN Mobile, or Listening, or Monitoring...we'll all hear your call sign and know who you are...otherwise all we hear is VN mobile...
5. I'm the most guilty of this one, let the repeater drop between transmissions. If XYZ keys up and says his piece, wait until the repeater drops before keying your mic and jumping in there. I know, it's hard not to jump in on the tail end of a transmission...but there are other ops out there that might be waiting for a 2 second break so they can get a word in edgewise.
6. Pass it around...when in a group, like morning or evening drive time, when you are done with your transmission, GIVE the freq to someone. Example...and that's what I did this weekend, over to KB9BVN. Then KB9BVN says his and then sends it to another op in the group and so on and so forth. That way everyone that wants to be in on the conversation gets a chance to talk and we're not doubling and tripling all over each other.

7. When a person comes on the freq, and doesn't give his/her call sign, do not talk to them. It is against Part 97 to converse with an unlicensed station in the amateur radio bands. Yes, they're stupid. Yes, they're ugly. Yes, their mom wears combat boots. We all know that for a fact, so don't break the law and waste your breath by telling them on the air. Trust me, they already know it.

8. Another one I am guilty of, and must work to stop doing...Q codes. Q codes are for CW operators. Is it against the law to use Q codes on the FM repeaters? Not that I know of. It's just how things are done though. You can't QSY to the kitchen.

I think that's it. This is not aimed at any one person in particular....or no people in particular...just my afternoon rant while I contemplate dinner.

73 de KB9BVN



A TRUE ANTENNA FARM
(somewhere in New Mexico)

..... Art Bell W6OBB

2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 2011

16 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

AUGUST 2011

20 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

SEPTEMBER 2011

17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN (ANNUAL PICNIC, location TBA)

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

SEPTEMBER 2011

24 GREENWOOD HS MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL (club event)

Greenwood HS Smith Valley Rd (west of US31) evening event this year and all are needed to assist with parking cars and public safety. This can count as an ARES Exercise for 2011.

OCTOBER 2011

15 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

2011 Indiana Hamfests

June 11	South Bend Indiana Hamfest , Elks Club, 3535 E. McKinley Avenue, South Bend, IN http://www.w9ab.org/
July 9	Indianapolis Hamfest , Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, http://www.indyhamfest.com
Nov. 19-20	Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

WA9RDF

Repeater

146.835/

146.235 MHz

151.4 Hz PL

Tone

Weekly Net Sunday Evening 7:00 PM

Club Officers:

President: Steve Carmean - K9DY

Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT

Secretary: Robert Jones – KC9NJM

Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG

Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP

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Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

